

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER 2016 AT 9:30 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Mrs Anne Connolly, Chairperson
Ms Deborah Watters, Vice-Chairperson
Ms Joanne Bunting
Mr Keith Buchanan
Prof Brice Dickson
(1) Dr Stephen Farry
Mr Ryan Feeney
Mrs Brenda Hale
(2) Mr Ross Hussey
(3) Mr Gerry Kelly
Ms Jennifer McCann
Mr Raymond McCartney
Mr Nelson McCausland
Ms Roisin McGlone
Dr Paul Nolan
(4) Mrs Wendy Osborne
(5) Ms Catherine Pollock.

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE

- (6) Mr George Hamilton, Chief Constable
(7) Mr Mark Hamilton, ACC Legacy and Justice Department
(6) Mr Will Kerr, ACC Crime Operations
(7) Mr Stephen Martin, ACC District Policing Command
(7) Mr Alan Todd, ACC Operational Support Department
(7) Mr Mark McNaughten, T/Director of Finance & Support
Services & Human Resources
(7) Ms Liz Young, Head of Corporate Communications
(7) Ms Jude Helliker, Head of Human Resources
(6) Superintendent Andrew Freeburn, Command Secretariat
(6) Two PSNI Staff Members

**NATIONAL CRIME
AGENCY
IN ATTENDANCE**

- (8) Ms Lynne Owens, Director General (NCA)
- (8) Mr Johnny Gwynne, Outgoing Director of Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command
- (8) Mr Donald Toon, Director of Economic Crime Command
- (8) Ms Jenny Bell, Head of Investigations (NI & Scotland)

OFFICIALS

Mrs Amanda Stewart, Chief Executive
Mrs Paula Gow, T/Director of Partnership
Ms Jenny Passmore, T/Director of Policy
Mr David Wilson, Director of Support Services
Three Board Officials

- (1) Item number 3.3 to close
- (2) Item number 11 to part item number 18
- (3) Item number 1 – item number 11
- (4) Item number 8 to close
- (5) Item number 3.3 – part item number 18
- (6) Item numbers 18 & part item number 19
- (7) Item number 18
- (8) Part item number 19

1 APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received from Ms Deirdre Blakely and Mr Daniel McCrossan.

The Chairperson asked Members to declare any conflicts of interest arising from the agenda. No conflicts of interests were declared.

**2 DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE POLICING BOARD HELD ON
1 SEPTEMBER 2016**

The Board considered the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 1 September 2016.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on

1 September 2016 be approved.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

3.1 Police Ombudsman's Report relating to murders in Loughinisland (Item 3.2 of minutes refers)

The Board noted that correspondence has been issued to the Police Ombudsman seeking clarification in relation to comments in a letter from the Ombudsman regarding engagement with the Public Prosecution Service and continuing investigative responsibilities in relation to murders at Loughinisland and a report in the media regarding the investigation of the circumstances surrounding the murders in 1992. NOTED.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That a copy of the correspondence to the Police Ombudsman and PSNI Deputy Chief Constable should be circulated to Members.

3.2 Research Project regarding Policing with the Community (Item 3.3 of minutes refers)

The Board noted a letter dated 19 September 2016 from PSNI in relation to the selection of the Policing District to participate in the research project regarding Policing with the Community. The response would be considered by the Partnership Committee. NOTED.

3.3 Legislation governing the appointment of Independent Members of PCSPs (Item 7 of minutes refers)

The Board noted a paper which provided details of the process for appointing Independent Members to Policing and Community Safety Partnerships. NOTED.

3.4 Review of incidents of impropriety at the Police College, Garnerville (Item 11 & 16 of minutes refers)

The Chairperson advised the Board that a draft report had been received on 4 October 2016 regarding the review of incidents of impropriety at the Police College, Garnerville and Members would be provided with the final report later in the meeting. She proposed that a special Board meeting should be held on 20 October 2016 at 9.30am with the Chief Constable and the Report Author from Police Scotland to discuss the report. The Board agreed with the Chairperson's proposal.

4 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

4.1 Questions arising from the Chief Constable's Report

The Board noted a monthly report from the Chief Constable to the Board including a six month performance update against the Policing Plan 2016/17. NOTED.

During discussion the Board agreed issues to be raised orally with PSNI later in the meeting.

4.2 Responses to Committee and Members questions

The Board noted written responses from PSNI to questions raised by Committees and Individual Members. NOTED.

4.3 Current and Emerging Issues

The Board noted a paper which provided a summary of some of the key policing issues which have featured in the media since the last Board meeting in public. NOTED.

5 CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

5.1 Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson presented a report to the Board which advised Members of:-

- The Chairperson's engagements during the period 1 September – 5 October 2016.
- A letter dated 31 August 2016 from the Chief Constable regarding a freeze on recruitment to PSNI.
- A letter dated 5 September 2016 from the Chief Constable to the Chair of the Justice Committee on the impact of the withdrawal from the European Union on the delivery of policing and some wider criminal justice issues.
- A letter dated 7 September 2016 from the Chief Constable which provided PSNI's response to the PEEL Inspection reports.
- A letter dated 21 September 2016 from the Chief Constable regarding the Board's Human Rights Advisor's role in oversight of the Stakeknife Investigation.
- A letter dated 9 September 2016 which had been issued to the Department of Justice (DOJ) which provided a response to the consultation on the draft NI Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Strategy.
- A letter dated 9 September 2016 to the Justice Minister seeking a meeting regarding the Fresh Start Panel Report recommendation relating to the work of PCSPs.
- A letter to C/Superintendent Pauline Shields regarding her retirement.

Members discussed the letter from the Chief Constable regarding the role of the Board's Human Rights Advisor and it was:-

AGREED:

- That a letter should be sent to the Chief Constable regarding the Board's Human Rights Advisor's role in reporting information back to the Board.

- That the Board should be provided with details of the various levels of security vetting.
- That the Board should arrange a meeting with the Human Rights Advisor to discuss her role and responsibilities.

Members noted a copy of an agenda for a meeting of the Organised Crime Task Force on 7 September 2016 and the minutes of the last meeting of the Task Force. NOTED.

The Chairperson advised the Board that Members were invited to attend a working lunch meeting with Members of the Irish Policing Authority on 2 November 2016 at 12:30pm hosted by the British-Irish Secretariat in Belfast. Members were asked to confirm their attendance to Board Support.

The Board considered a paper, tabled at the meeting, which provided Members with correspondence from DOJ regarding proposals to empower GB law enforcement officers to enter Northern Ireland's territorial waters in hot pursuit situations and exercise maritime enforcement powers.

Members discussed the matter in relation to the proposed accountability arrangements should the hot pursuit powers be enacted, in particular whether there should be an accountability role for the Board.

During discussion it was:-

AGREED:

- That the Chair should seek a meeting with the Permanent Secretary, DOJ to discuss the issue further.
- That the accountability arrangement for maritime enforcement powers should be considered at the special Board meeting on 20 October 2016.

5.2 Arrangements for Conference – November 2016

The Board noted an outline programme for a seminar and conference which the Board would host with PSNI at Queen's University, Belfast on 2 and 3 November 2016 to mark the milestone of 15 years of the work of the Board and the PSNI. NOTED.

Members considered a list of delegates who would be invited to the conference on 3 November 2016 and suggested other stakeholders who should be issued with invitations.

5.3 November 2016 Board Meeting

The Chair proposed that the Board meeting provisionally scheduled to take place on 4 November 2016 should be cancelled. The Board agreed with this proposal.

6 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive updated Members on the performance against the Board's corporate and business plan, finance, human resources issues, Members Training and engagements that she had undertaken.

The Chief Executive provided information in response to queries relating to PCSP expenditure, sickness absence of Board Staff and timescales for approval of PSNI financial statements.

In response to a query from a Member, the Chief Executive undertook to provide Members with a copy of the Board Staff Organisational Chart.

During discussion Members suggested a few amendments to the Board's Business Plan.

7 AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

7.1 Chair's Report on a meeting of the Audit and Risk Management Committee held on 29 September 2016

Mrs Brenda Hale referred Members to the meeting and highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

7.1.1 NIAO Report to Those Charged with Governance (NIPB)

7.1.2 PSNI Year End Financial Statements 2015/16

7.1.3 Membership of the PSNI Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

7.1.4 Police Administration Branch Case Management System

The Vice-Chair of the Committee advised the Board that he understood that the Committee had agreed that future meetings of the Audit and Risk Management Committee should take place on Friday mornings and highlighted his concern at this decision as he was unable to attend the meetings at this time due to work commitments.

It was:-

AGREED

For the Committee to re-visit the timings and dates for meetings at the next meeting in December 2016.

8 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

8.1 Draft minutes of a meeting of the Partnership Committee held on 15 September 2016

The Interim Vice-Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to the

minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2016 and highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

8.1.1 Confidence in Policing (Item 6.1 of minutes refers)

8.1.2 Anti-Social Behaviour (Item 6.3 of minutes refers)

In response to a query from a Member regarding an amendment to the minutes of a previous meeting of the Partnership Committee, the Chief Executive advised that the matter should be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

9 PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

9.1 Draft minutes of a meeting of the Performance Committee held on 8 September 2016

The Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2016 and highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

9.1.1 PSNI Briefing on Evaluation of Body Worn Video Pilot Scheme (Item 3.3 of minutes refers)

9.1.2 PSNI response to HMIC Inspection of Crime Data Integrity (4.1 of minutes refers)

9.1.3 Verbal update from the Board's Human Rights Advisor (Item 6.1 of minutes refers)

9.1.4 PSNI Briefing on Legacy Investigation (Item 6.3 of minutes refers)

10 RESOURCES COMMITTEE

10.1 Draft minutes of a meeting of the Resources Committee held on 15 September 2016

The Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to the minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2016 and highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

10.1.1 Direct Entry Superintendent Scheme (Item 6.1 of minutes refers)

10.1.2 HMIC Peel Inspection – Efficiency Theme (Item 6.4 of minutes refers)

10.1.3 PSNI Demand (Item 7.4 of minutes refers)

10.1.4 Questions for the Chief Constable (Item 8 of minutes refers)

In response to a suggestion from a Member that the Resources Committee should have a discussion in relation to the possible resourcing implications of Brexit, the Chair of the Committee asked for the matter to be placed on the agenda for consideration at a future meeting.

11 PROBATION BOARD FOR NORTHERN IRELAND – CORPORATE PLAN CONSULTATION

The Board considered a paper regarding a request from the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) for an input from the Board as part of the consultation process for the PBNI 2017-20 Corporate Plan.

The Board also considered a draft response from the Board to PBNI.

During discussion Members expressed views regarding the response and in conclusion it was:-

AGREED:

That the Board's response should be issued to the PBNI's Corporate Plan Consultation subject to the inclusion of Members views.

12 REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE POLICE COLLEGE

This matter will be dealt with at the Special Board Meeting on 20 October 2016.

13 PSNI HMIC INSPECTION ACTIVITY 2016/17

The Board considered a paper regarding a proposal to the Minister of Justice on the content of the HMIC efficiency and effectiveness inspection of PSNI for 2016/17. The proposal was for an inspection based on the Efficiency Pillar and a strand within the Effectiveness Pillar of the 2016/17 PEEL methodology assessing PSNI effectiveness in preventing crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and keeping people safe.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That the Minister of Justice should be asked to commission HMIC to carry out an efficiency and effectiveness inspection of PSNI based upon three questions in the Efficiency Pillar and questions 10, 11 and 13 within the Effectiveness Pillar of the 2016/17 PEEL methodology.

14 INFORMATION PAPERS

The Board noted the following papers:-

14.1 Schedule of Events – October 2016

14.2 Cross Border Policing Strategy

NOTED.

15 COMMUNICATION ISSUES

The Board noted details of communication issues. NOTED.

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was conducted.

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

A special Board meeting was arranged for 20 October 2016 to discuss the report on the review of the Police College.

The next monthly meeting was arranged for 1 December 2016.

18 PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Chairperson welcomed the Chief Constable and the Service Executive Team to the meeting and invited questions from Members to the Chief Constable.

The Chief Constable provided a brief update to the Board in respect of the recently received report following a review of incidents of impropriety at the Police College, Garnerville. The Chairperson advised that a special Board meeting would be convened on the morning of 20 October 2016 to discuss the report and recommendations included within that report.

In response to a question from a Member the PSNI discussed with the Board the increasing heroin problem in Northern Ireland and steps being taken by the PSNI to tackle the issue. Members noted that while Northern Ireland's heroin problem is still behind that of other major UK cities it is none the less, a matter of some concern to the PSNI.

The PSNI responded to the Member's questions regarding:

- The use of CS Spray on young people and the circumstances under which this would be considered proportionate. Members noted that the use of CS spray on anyone under 18 years old is automatically referred to OPONI, and;
- Recent media reports of over 70 alleged sex offences happening in adult care homes over the past 3 years.

Further to the written response received to a question submitted by the Performance Committee regarding invitations or encouragement to join a proscribed organisation, a Member requested the PSNI's comment in respect of a specific incident, details of which were provided to the meeting. In response the PSNI discussed with the Board the complexity of such circumstances and the importance of dealing with individual instances in a proportionate and context specific way. Members discussed with the PSNI the impact on community confidence and public perception of such displays.

In response to a Member's question regarding the most recent BBC Spotlight programme regarding engagement with paramilitary groups the Chief Constable discussed with Members issues arising from the programme and provided context regarding comments made by him during the programme.

In response to a Member's question regarding the most recent use of Castlederg Police Station it was agreed the PSNI would seek clarification from the Area Commander and revert to the Board with this information.

In respect of a question raised by a Member regarding firearms training for Part-time Police Officers, the PSNI confirmed that no firearms training had been cancelled and that all Officers carrying firearms are required to participate in the appropriate training.

The Chief Constable also discussed with Board Members his correspondence to the Chairperson of the Justice Committee in respect of the operational impact on the PSNI following the UK's exit from the European Union.

19 DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL, NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY

The Board considered:-

- A paper in advance of the National Crime Agency (NCA) Director General's attendance at the meeting.
- A summary report of NCA performance and activity in Northern Ireland for the period April – June and July – August 2016.

The Chairperson welcomed the Director General of the NCA and her colleagues to the meeting.

The Chief Constable referred to the support which PSNI had received from NCA and the close working relationship which the PSNI had established with the Agency allowing them to avail of additional expertise and resources in the wider fight against serious and organised crime.

The Director General of the NCA referred to the work of NCA and the close working relation that had been developed with PSNI. She briefed the Board on:-

- The role of NCA.
- Drugs operations in Northern Ireland.
- The investigation into the National Assets Management Agency (NAMA) which commenced in July 2015.
- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation and abuse in Northern Ireland.

During discussion the following main points were discussed with the representatives from NCA:-

- Level of resourcing attached to NCA and the need to review this as a result of Brexit.
- Funding for NCA.
- The ongoing NCA investigation regarding NAMA.
- Cross Border related activities.
- Human Trafficking.

The Chairperson thanked the Director General and her colleagues for attending the meeting and invited them and the representatives from PSNI to join the public session of the Board meeting.

The meeting moved into public session. A verbatim recording of the Board meeting in public is available on the Board's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/policingboard.

(Meeting closed at 3.45pm)

**Board Support
October 2016**

_____ **Chairperson**